

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN PALAU



Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Enhancing community health and resilience to climate change and disasters in Palau



Project focus: Health Sector



Project timeframe



1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

National implementing agencies



Ministry of Health, Ministry of State (including the Media and Information Services), Ministry of Finance (including the Climate Change Office), Ministry of Education and Bureau of Public Works.

Beneficiaries



Direct benefit: **3,606 persons**

Indirect benefit: **14,055 persons**

Palau is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Project synopsis

The 'Enhancing community health and resilience to climate change and disasters in Palau' project will scale up the efforts of previous projects to build resilience to water and vector borne diseases in five states of Babeldaob: Aimeliik, Airai, Ngardmau, Ngaremlengui, and Ngatpang States. The project will also enhance community access to information about climate change resilience and health whilst also training teachers and students to monitor and address coastal and ocean pollution.

How does this project address climate change adaptation in Palau?

Palau like many island countries is experiencing the acute impacts of climate change. These include rising temperatures, varying rainfall patterns and changes in the frequency of droughts. These impacts exacerbate the vulnerability of local communities to water and vector-borne diseases as well as water scarcity and food security. The Palau National Climate Change Policy 2015 and Palau Bureau of Public Health Strategic Plan identified health and water security as areas requiring priority action.

Focusing on the people and communities living in the five states of Aimeliik, Airai, Ngaremlengui, Ngatpang and Ngardmau on the island of Babeldaob, the project will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and the rights of all residents, whilst paying special attention to the most vulnerable. Skills in climate resilience will be enhanced, particularly for state government officers and community leaders.

The project will scale up the existing school supplementary water storage system programme to include community evacuation shelters in the five states. A water quality training and monitoring programme will be established to help households and state agencies control the spread of vectors, such as mosquitoes, and monitor and maintain the supplementary water storage systems to ensure the availability of quality drinking water.

The capacity of the National Radio Station will be enhanced to facilitate live broadcasts from communities throughout the country to share information and experiences about ways they are working to create healthy, climate resilient communities. Specific activities will include the training of teachers and students to monitor and address coastal pollution issues.



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The project is enhancing vector-borne surveillance and outbreak response and is equipping the National Radio Station to conduct live radio broadcasting programmes.

Key Highlights

Strengthening resilience to water and vector borne diseases



- Installing supplementary water catchment systems at selected emergency shelters across five states in Babeldaob.
- Equipping the Ministry of Health to enhance vector-borne surveillance and outbreak response.
- Establishing a water quality and vector-borne disease training programme for communities and State agencies in the five states.
- Providing training and equipment to Grade 7 and Grade 9 teachers to monitor ocean and coastal pollution and their impacts on climate change and human health.

Building community resilience



- Building the capacity of community leaders and state government members in climate resilience through accredited training.
- Assessing state development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.
- Equipping the National Radio Station to conduct live radio broadcasting programmes highlighting local efforts to build community resilience and healthy environments.

Strategic planning



- Assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation projects and applying the results to national strategic planning.
- Integrating climate and disaster resilience into a national radio communications plan for Palau.
- Supporting the Office of Climate Change to strengthen and institutionalize the National Climate Change Coordination Committee.

Activities meet the following SDGs:



About the SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019-2023) is funded with € 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific island countries.

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.